

This listing of claims is for the convenience of the Examiner and does not replace prior versions and listings.

Listing of Claims

1. (currently amended) A printer having a plurality of print media paths therethrough, said printer further comprising:
 - (1) a printer device;
 - (2) a first print media path that carries a sheet of print media from a sheet pickup mechanism to the printer device;
 - (3) a second print media path that carries the sheet from the printer device to a sheet exit opening;
 - (4) a third print media path that carries the sheet from the sheet exit opening back to the printer device;
 - (5) a housing having:
 - (a) at least one sheet entry opening through which a sheet can be delivered to the first print media path, and
 - (b) at least one sheet exit opening through which the sheet can be dispensed from the housing after said sheet travels, in a first flow direction, past the printer device and a sheet diverter;
 - (6) the sheet diverter having a first operating position for allowing the sheet to pass, in the first flow direction, and a second operating position for diverting the sheet while said sheet travels in a second flow direction toward the printer device; and
 - (7) a sheet pickup mechanism having (a) a first operating position wherein the sheet pickup mechanism includes a roller having a rotational axle being disposed at a lower horizontal level so that said sheet pickup mechanism picks up the sheet from a sheet dispensing tray, and (b) a second operating position, wherein the rotational axle of the roller in said sheet pickup mechanism being disposed at an upper horizontal level above the lower horizontal level so that the roller is substantially at a level of a duplex printing path to serve as a part of the a duplex printing path for transporting the sheet toward the printer device when the sheet travels in

the second flow direction toward the printer device.

2. (original) The printer of claim 1 wherein the housing has at least two sheet entry openings through which a sheet can be delivered for transport to the printer device.
3. (currently amended) The printer of claim 1, wherein the roller being rotated in a first direction in the first operating position and being rotated in a second direction different from the first direction in the second operating position. ~~housing has three sheet entry openings through which a sheet can be delivered for transport to the printer device.~~
4. (cancelled)
5. (previously presented) The printer of claim 1 wherein the sheet diverter is pivotally mounted so that, in its first operating position, a sheet traveling in the first flow direction, will not collide with said diverter and so that, in its second operating position, a sheet traveling in the second flow direction will collide with said sheet diverter and be diverted toward the printer device.
6. (original) The printer of claim 1 further comprising a sheet collection tray that services the sheet exit opening.
7. (original) The printer of claim 1 further comprising two sheet dispensing trays that are each serviced by a separate and distinct sheet pickup mechanism.
8. (original) The printer of claim 1 wherein a second sheet entry opening, the printer device and the sheet exit opening are on substantially the same horizontal plane such that a sheet passing over said horizontal plane is not bent more than about 30°.

9-16 (cancelled)

17. (currently amended) A method for increasing the versatility of a printer, said method comprising:
 - (1) locating a printer device in a printer housing;
 - (2) providing a plurality of media paths that pass through the printer housing and printer device;
 - (3) providing at least one sheet entry opening through which a sheet can be delivered to the printer device;
 - (4) providing the housing with at least one sheet exit opening for (1) dispensing a sheet from the housing when said sheet travels past the sheet diverter in a first flow direction and (2) permitting a sheet to travel past the sheet diverter in a second flow direction leading back toward the printer

device;

(5) positioning a sheet diverter in the housing such that, while in a first operating position, the sheet diverter can facilitate passage of the sheet out of the sheet exit opening and such that, while in a second operating position, the sheet diverter can direct the sheet in a second flow direction toward the printer device; and

(6) positioning a sheet pickup mechanism in the housing, the sheet pickup mechanism having a roller (a) such that, in a first operating position, said sheet pickup mechanism a rotational axle of the roller is positioned at a lower horizontal level so that the sheet pickup mechanism picks up the sheet from a sheet dispensing tray, drives a sheet toward the printer device and (b) such that, in a second operating position, the rotational axle of the roller is positioned at an upper horizontal level above the lower horizontal level so that the roller is substantially at a level of the duplex printing path to serve said sheet pickup mechanism serves as a part of the a-duplex printing path for transporting the sheet toward the printer device.

18. (currently amended) The method of claim 17 wherein the sheet pickup mechanism (1) operates from a first operating position, wherein the roller in said sheet pickup mechanism being rotated in a first direction to remove removes a sheet from a sheet dispensing tray and directs said sheet toward the printer, and (2) operates from a second operating position, the roller being rotated in a second direction different from the first direction, so that wherein said sheet pickup mechanism carries the sheet over a portion of a duplex printing path through the printer device.

19. (original) The method of claim 17 wherein successive sheets of paper are introduced into the printer from a sheet dispensing tray, carried through a printer device and delivered to a sheet collection tray in a simplex printing operation.

20. (cancelled)

21. (new) A printer having a plurality of print media paths therethrough, said printer further comprising:

(1) a printer device;

(2) a first print media path that carries a sheet of print media from a sheet pickup mechanism to the printer device;

(3) a second print media path that carries the sheet from the printer device to a sheet exit

opening;

(4) a third print media path that carries the sheet from the sheet exit opening back to the printer device;

(5) a housing having:

(a) at least one sheet entry opening through which a sheet can be delivered to the first print media path, and

(b) at least one sheet exit opening through which the sheet can be dispensed from the housing after said sheet travels, in a first flow direction, past the printer device and a sheet diverter;

(6) the sheet diverter having a first operating position for allowing the sheet to pass, in the first flow direction, and a second operating position for diverting the sheet while said sheet travels in a second flow direction[,] toward the printer device; and

(7) a sheet pickup mechanism including a roller having a first operating position, said roller being rotated in a first direction to pick up the sheet from a sheet dispensing tray, and having a second operating position, the roller being rotated in a second direction different from the first direction to serve as a part of a duplex printing path when the sheet travels in the second flow direction toward the printer device.

22. (new) A method for increasing the versatility of a printer, said method comprising:

(1) locating a printer device in a printer housing;

(2) providing a plurality of media paths that pass through the printer housing and printer device;

(3) providing at least one sheet entry opening through which a sheet can be delivered to the printer device;

(4) providing the housing with at least one sheet exit opening for (1) dispensing a sheet from the housing when said sheet travels past the sheet diverter in a first flow direction and (2) permitting a sheet to travel past the sheet diverter in a second flow direction leading back toward the printer device;

(5) positioning a sheet diverter in the housing such that, while in a first operating position, the sheet diverter can facilitate passage of the sheet out of the sheet exit opening and

such that, while in a second operating position, the sheet diverter can direct the sheet in a second flow direction toward the printer device; and

(6) positioning a sheet pickup mechanism in the housing such that a roller in the sheet pickup mechanism has a first operating position, wherein the roller is rotated in a first direction to pick up the sheet from a dispensing tray, and a second operating position, wherein the roller is rotated in a second direction different from the first direction to serve as a part of a duplex printing path for transporting the sheet to the printer device.